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FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0977
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0016
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0008
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UNCLAS VATICAN 000066

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KIRF](#) [UN](#) [VT](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED, UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE 2008 HUMAN RIGHTS
PRIORITIES

REF: STATE 93981

[¶1.](#) DCM delivered reftel demarche on US human rights priorities for the Third Committee meetings of the 2008 UN General Assembly to Monsignor Pietro Parolin, the Holy See's deputy foreign minister, on September 9.

[¶2.](#) Additionally, Pol Chief discussed reftel points with Monsignor Christophe El-Kassis, Director for Human Rights at the Holy See's Section for Relations with States, on September 11 (septel).

[¶3.](#) Comment: While the Holy See is an observer at the UN --and thus it does not have a vote-- it follows with interest General Assembly Third Committee discussions on human rights, and appreciated learning about US priorities. Through Papal statements and guidelines for Catholics around the world, the Holy See can have an indirect but significant influence on governments' positions on human rights issues. End comment.

GLENDON